



EXHIBIT 9
DATE 4.3.07
SB 78

Public Lands/Water Access Association, Inc.

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To: House Fish and Game Committee Members
In Support of S.B. 78

My name is Tony Schoonen from Ramsay, Montana, representing Public Lands/Water Access Association and the Montana State Lands Coalition. We support S.B. 78 because it is a compromise bill for all parties and it would protect counties and individuals from lawsuits.

Some of our members are fishing guides who have accessed streams from bridges, while others have used bridge rights of way to fish with their families for many years. In the last few years, electric wires attached to bridges and over the river began to appear, as well as hired "goons" harassing anyone putting in at bridges.

No Trespassing signs within the right of way and six to seven strands of barbed wire fastened to bridges are still common in Madison and Beaverhead counties. This essentially turns a public waterway into a private stream.

The rhetoric that you will hear from Kennedy's attorney is bogus at best, when he talks about litter, crowding and trespass. Kennedy's own hired goon (person who sells his soul and our heritage for thirty pieces of silver) who took pictures, established the fact that there was no posting, which is required under state law. The Montana Trespass Law states in part "The public has the privilege to enter private land only when the landowner has failed to post NO TRESPASSING notice or mark legal accesses with 50 square inches of orange, page 8, 2007 Fishing Regulations.

At the time his pictures were taken at the Seylor Lane Bridge, there was illegal posting and electric wires (voltage unknown) on the bridge abutments.

There were also "goons" driving swathers, tractors, etc. to show confusion and crowding. You can drive there right now and no one would be there.

Our groups encourage passage of S.B. 78 out of this committee without amendments or further study—These are simply diversionary tactics to kill the bill. If this bill is killed, our groups can begin to understand how the Native Americans felt when the rich and powerful took away their heritage and their way of life.

Tony Schoonen
Director